

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9-14 are currently amended, without acquiescence in the basis for rejection or prejudice to pursue the original claims in a related application. No new matter has been added.

### **I. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-18 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants would further like to thank the Examiner for providing detailed explanation for the basis for each objection and rejection.

### **II. Objections to the Claims**

Claim 13 stands objected to for lack of antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 is currently amended and is believed to have overcome the objection.

### **III. Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 1-7, 9-12, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for lack of antecedent basis.

#### **A. Regarding claim 1:**

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is currently amended to clarify an output provided by an analog circuit and “a digital circuit output” provided by a digital circuit and is thus believed to have overcome the rejection.

#### **B. Regarding claim 2:**

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 depends from claim 1 which is currently amended to clarify the output and a digital circuit output. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the previously presented claim 2 complies with the requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

C. Regarding claim 9:

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is currently amended to clarify the claimed invention and is believed to have overcome the rejection.

D. Regarding claim 10:

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 depends from claim 9 and is currently amended. Claim 10 is thus believed to have overcome the rejection.

E. Regarding claim 11:

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 depends from claim 10 and is currently amended. Claim 11 is thus believed to have overcome the rejection.

F. Regarding claim 12:

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is currently amended to clarify the claimed invention and is believed to have overcome the rejection.

G. As to claims 3, 5, 9, and 17:

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 5, 9, and 17 are currently amended to clarify the claimed invention and are believed to have overcome the rejection.

**IV. Rejections of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claim 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter(s). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14 is currently amended to clarify the claimed invention, without acquiescence in the cited basis for rejection or prejudice to pursue the original claim in a related application, and is thus believed to have overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claim 14 is not only directed at a practical application of simulation operation of a circuit design but also produces tangible, concrete, and useful results. Applicants thus respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn. Claims 15-16 are also believed to have overcome the rejection at least for their dependency upon independent claim 14.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that, with entry of this amendment, all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. **50-4047**, referencing billing number **7010652001**. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. **50-4047**, referencing billing number **7010652001**.

Respectfully submitted,

Bingham McCutchen LLP

By: 

Erich C. Tzou  
Reg. No. 56,927

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Three Embarcadero Center  
San Francisco, California 94111  
Telephone: (650) 849-4962  
Facsimile: (650) 849-4800